Equal Rights

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Clara Campoamor

Member of the Spanish Cortes, to whose refusal to permit delay or compromise is due the Woman Suffrage Clause in the new Constitution of Spain. Srta. Campoamor is a lawyer by profession, but she has achieved fame as a Feminist and a Revolutionist. She is a brilliant speaker and a tower of strength in the Equal Rights movement.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929, by Senator Gerald P. Nye, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House January 11, 1932, by Representative Louis Ludlow, Indiana.

Women and Minors

IT DOES us good occasionally to look back through the years and recall how long and how persistently women have been asking for justice.

The demand for industrial equality is not a new one. As far back as 1873 Feminists saw the need of it and began protesting against the classing of women with minors in labor legislation. Had their words been heeded, there would not be so many snares to unwind today.

We want to share with you an excellent editorial, "Women and Minors," written for the *Woman's Journal*, September 20, 1873, by Henry B. Blackwell, the husband of Lucy Stone and one of the staunchest and most faithful advocates of the woman's cause:

"We are heartily tired of hearing women classed with children as irresponsible and dependent beings who need to be protected. The Republican resolution favoring a 10-hour law 'for women and minors' is of this character. If a 10-hour law is advisable, as we think it is, let it apply equally to men also. If it is not advisable, but an encumbrance, in the case of men, it will prove equally so in the case of women. . . . . The women of Massachusetts ask for Equal Rights, not special privileges; Justice, not favors."

These ringing words need no comment. They apply equally well today. It is humiliating to admit that after fifty-nine years women are still obliged to plead for economic equality. The remedy, however is at hand—more effective use of the ballot, more Feminists in our law-making bodies, and the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Woman in Chains

THE recent exploit of Mme. Jane Valbot, who chained herself to a bench in the French Senate and upset the equilibrium of that august assemblage severely by her interruption of their deliberations and the delay and difficulty in evicting her, recalls the olden days of the militant suffragists in England. Officials dealt very gently, on the whole, with Mme. Valbot, although in their haste to obey the reiterated and hysterical cries of "Throw her out! Throw her out! *Why* is she not thrown out?" they were somewhat rough on the furniture. What violence took place appears to have been strictly verbal and for that Mme. Valbot was prepared. She explained her act as a symbolical one; she wished to bring home to her country's legislators that French women were in chains and felt that the sight of a woman actually enchained in their midst should have that effect.

Mme. Valbot's action brings again to the fore the whole matter of militant tactics and raises the question of the desirability of militancy in connection with our Equal Rights campaign.

There is an ever growing sentiment throughout the United States in favor of concentrating on the Equal Rights Amendment, but what does this sentiment signify in terms of everyday work? What can a woman in Montana, or Arizona, or Ohio, actually do, today and tomorrow and the next day, to expedite the campaign? She can, of course, get in touch with her members of Congress and urge that they vote aye when the bill comes out on the floor. She can also request the members of the House Judiciary Committee to bring in a favorable report. That would perhaps take two days, and then what?

Shall she then come to Washington and, taking the cue from Mme. Valbot, chain herself to one of the pillars of the portico of the National Capitol and remain there, if the police will let her, for the rest of the year? And if the police object and break her chains instead, setting her free, will she have accomplished anything worth while?

We fear not, in America, at the present stage of the campaign. She would only succeed in making herself and the cause ridiculous and would frighten away precisely that great body of conservative women whose support is essential to the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Women have votes in the United States, quite enough votes to put the amendment through promptly in an orderly way. They are not in chains, in the sense that French women are, therefore the symbolism fails.

What American women need now is to focus and define their plan of campaign so that every woman interested in Equal Rights, whether she lives in Texas or Idaho or any other State, may have a full-time job working for Equal Rights every day in the year. We now have plenty of women who believe in Equal Rights, with plenty of time, and plenty of votes, to pass the amendment over night, but they do not know, from day to day, what to do. The supreme task of the National Woman's Party is to lay out their work for them.

Notes from a Feminist's Travel Diary

By Muna Lee

I. Clara Campoamor

"SHE will be busy!" warns the old concierge as he opens the elevator door and pushes the button that sends us jerking upward. She *is* busy. Clara Campoamor's anteroom and outer office are filled with waiting clients, men and women. From the inner office comes a steady hum of conversation, with a feminine voice, clear, pleasant and emphatic, audible now and again in an energetic phrase. She is standing by her desk, not sitting, as one enters at last, summoned by a pretty secretary with a notebook in her hand.

Clara Campoamor stands during much of our talk, moves about, returns. The effect is of intensity and force. She is a vivid person, with dramatic black eyebrows above large brown eyes with a level gaze. Even in repose she gives the impression of being on the alert.

Her father was a well-known journalist, but he died when Clara was hardly more than a child. She was faced with the necessity of earning a living in a country which made small provision for such necessity then on the part of its women. A painful period of struggle ended when she obtained a position as telegrapher and journeyed to Saragossa and San Sebastian. Later she held a position in the Ministry of Public Instruction and Fine Arts; later still, as teacher of stenography and typewriting in the State schools. She studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1925, and opened her law office in Madrid.

Feminist and Revolutionist, she was working to build the Republic while she worked to build her own life. The Republic once established, she has organized an association of women of all parties who are united for safeguarding "its liberal and democratic principles."

She is famed for her eloquence. When the Constitution of the Republic was being drawn up, Clara Campoamor and Victoria Kent clashed on the floor of the Cortes. Both believed in suffrage, but Victoria Kent believed that the women of Spain were not ready for the vote; that education for republican life should precede it. Clara Campoamor answered her with all the eloquence of passionate conviction reinforced by the bitter experience of hard years of struggle.

"We cannot hesitate and compromise!" she cried. "If the Republic is to endure, Spain must trust her women!"

And so votes for women on equal terms with men was written into the basic law of the new Spain.

II. Margarita Nelken

Margarita Nelken's apartment looks out over the Paseo de la Castellana, Madrid's fashionable drive, flanked with embassies and great houses, with the shaded promenade down the center where nurses with enormous frilled bonnets like huge white gillyflowers walk solemnly up and down with their small charges.

"If I were not sick I should not have been here today to see you!" says Margarita Nelken. We both smile. I have been trying to see her for a week. When not actually in the Cortes, she is always away—lecturing on the purposes and obligations of the Republic to voters in the cities along the coast, in small mountain villages, in the arid upland towns. "Will you permit me to finish dictating this letter first?" she asks. I look at her appreciatively while I wait. Hers is an alien, tawny-haired loveliness. Her parents were German, I recall. But her room is wholly and delightfully Spanish, furnished discriminatingly with the best of that satisfying Spanish folk-art which is so simple in outline and so rich and subtle in coloring. A hanging in magenta, violet, and electric blue is the background for a carved oak chest. Charming pottery animals walk across the mantel. A dark oak table with iron braces gleams with two centuries of wax.

Margarita Nelken finishes her letter and is swiftly the gracious charming hostess. She asks about the women in North America; in South America. And what are women doing in the Antilles? With difficulty I focus our conversation on herself. Will she tell me why her election to the Cortes was contested and how she won her seat?

She makes an expressive gesture with the long slender hand of an artist.

"Nationality!" said Margarita Nelken. "Nationality! I was born in Madrid of German parents. They registered me at birth as a Spanish citizen but I had not registered again on attaining my majority, though I had held a government appointment given only to Spanish citizens. But when the voters of Badajoz elected me to represent them, there was a great campaign against permitting me to take my seat."

"And how was the matter settled?"

"Oh, very simple!" laughed Margarita Nelken. "The Cortes voted that I be a citizen, and that's how I became the only person who has acquired citizenship by vote!"

III. Victoria Kent

Tall and slender, with dark eyes and dark hair, a wholly Castilian charm and distinction, Victoria Kent has little obvious connection with her English surname. The remote British ancestor who bequeathed it to her, bequeathed nothing apparent to the eye. Spanish of the Spanish, Victoria Kent sat down beside me upon the sofa in her office in the Ministry of Prisons, and talked with me about women in her country and mine.

"We must have realities!" was the underlying theme of her talk. "We have had rhetoric so long!"

She is Director of Prisons, this earnest low-voiced woman, and her work in reforming the Spanish prison system has been news in the headlines of the world.

The first woman to be admitted to the bar in Spain, Victoria Kent was one of the lawyers who defended the Revolutionists when they were on trial for their lives. She has the popular and official confidence to a remarkable degree.

"You would better see what Victoria Kent says about it," is a remark one hears often.

Her office is in the Ministry of Justice, a grim building on a noisy cluttered street. Her anteroom is filled, always,

Wanted—A New Psychology

By ZONA GALE

THE need to change the psychology towards women is still everywhere evident twelve years after the passage of the Equal Suffrage law. The passage of laws seeking to give women an equal footing with men is a necessity not only as law, but as a contribution to this change in psychology.

Of late we stood at a station in Florida where the northward bound express which we were taking had just arrived. My husband was busy directing the porters when the Pullman conductor said to him, "Do you wish a Pullman?" I answered, "Yes." The Pullman conductor looked at me briefly and then in the same tone repeated to my husband, "Do you wish a Pullman?" This sort of thing is so common that it goes unnoticed by men and even by women. But it must not be unnoticed by women. The great need now is that women should notice. For the basis on which is based this kind of disregard of any word of women has long since ceased to hold.

Personally, I never believed in the militant methods of the English suffragists. But I have always remembered an example which one of them gave. A physician had told her that it would be necessary to give a special medicine to her sick child and that in order to give this medicine he would be obliged to have the parent's signature. The mother replied, "Very well, I will sign the permission." Upon which the doctor replied, "Pardon me, I said the parent's signature." This mother in her account said: "That night I threw my first stone."

Laughter is better than stones. But laughter is not enough. There must first be law to help to bring in a changed psychology.

with petitioners; old peasant women in dusty sandals who have walked from Southern Spain with a plea for Victoria Kent to save a son from prison; women with strained faces, in fashionable street suits; men of all classes. It is a tense atmosphere, that of Victoria Kent's antechamber; but the tension relaxes unconsciously when Victoria Kent herself appears for a moment in the door, a pale, grave woman with a smile of great sweetness, who with a quiet word makes them welcome and promises to see each one in turn.

One may disagree with Victoria Kent on questions of policy; one could never doubt her sincerity and intellectual integrity. She has the practicality of the Spaniard, that realistic race so romanticized and falsified by most foreign commentators. Her first act as Director of Prisons was to revise the diet of the prisoners and see that it was balanced and adequate. Her second was to cut down expenses by consolidating prisons and abolishing those that were insanitary or superfluous. The good of the prisoner and the good of the State; efficiency and economy: the dual purpose motivates her official life.

"Will you tell the women of the United States for me how touched and surprised I was by their generous enthusiasm when I was named to office?" she asked me. "It overwhelmed me to receive so many messages of congratulation and good wishes from the United States. Tell them," she added, with the sudden warm smile which erases the weariness from her face, "that they gave me a sense of friendship and companionship which has made your country seem very close to mine."

A Danish Exponent of Industrial Equality

ANNA WESTERGAARD, who entered the Danish State Railway Service at the age of 17, has remained in it for 32 years, and is now a woman pioneer in the office of *Fuldmaegtig* (*Sous-chef de Bureaus*) of the Danish State Railway, took an active part in the annual meeting of the Open Door Council in London this month (March).

When Anna Westergaard discovered, in her teens, that women did not have equal opportunities and equal working conditions with men in her chosen field, she determined to level the inequalities.

After preliminary service in a small Danish town, she continued her work in Copenhagen, with one other woman colleague, in a big mixed railway organization. Her first successful demand was that any railway woman demanding it should be allowed to have exactly the same instruction and same examinations as men. Anna Westergaard herself immediately took advantage of this opportunity. She received her training after regular office hours, qualifying in the theoretical and practical branches. The latter included switching engines, engine examination, signal work, traffic arrangements, and the like. She passed her examinations with distinction, and the Royal appointment as Fuldmaegtig followed.

"The efforts of Anna Westergaard," comments *The Vote*, of London, "have been consistently directed towards securing equality of opportunities, conditions and pay for all women with men throughout the railway service and, indeed, in all State services. In the Danish Civil Service there is equal pay as between men and women civil servants, and this reform is very largely due to the indefatigable work of Anna Westergaard. For 23 years she has been a leading member of the Railway Workers' Union and she made the men (who largely outnumbered the women) see that women ought to get equal pay with men for work of equal value. For many years she was editor of the *Railway Workers' Journal* and today she is known throughout Denmark as one of the wittiest speakers and writers on Feminist subjects.

"Anna Westergaard is a member of the Radical Party, a Municipal Council of Gentofte, chairman of a Branch of Dansk Kvindesamfund (the great Danish women's organization), vice-president of the Danish "Aabne Dor" (Open Door), and honorable treasurer of the Open Door International. She has twice stood as a Radical candidate for the Danish Parliament. Miss Westergaard is, indeed, a 'personality,' and we send her fraternal and most cordial greetings as fellow-workers in the great cause of women's economic emancipation."

Another Woman Protests

By Margarita Robles de Mendoza, Mexican Commissioner of the Inter-American Commission of Women

AS soon as I learned that Mexico would attend the International Labor Conference to be held April 12, at Geneva, I wrote to the men appointed to represent Mexico at this conference, Mr. Romeo Ortega, Minister of Mexico to Sweden, and Mr. Eduardo Blasquez, Charge d'Affaires of Mexico to Czechoslovakia, pointing out that the Mexican laboring women are not satisfied with Mexico's laws on this subject. They need equal laws in industry, instead of the discriminatory ones now in force; laws that give women strength in their personality, not laws which debase them.

Grouping women workers with minor children means that women will never get the right pay for their work, no matter how hard and how well they perform their work. Nor will children get proper legislation when coupled with adults.

Our laws, for example, oblige the factory owners to pay a woman her full salary for eight days before and one month after childbirth. The employer, therefore, sees in every woman a candidate for motherhood and all women, whether fit or unfit for this function, whether child-bearing or childless, sterile or fertile, are considered liabilities to the employer because he may have to pay for work not done. All women will suffer from such a burden put upon the employer. The State ought to assume this burden if and when a woman needs assistance. The desirable thing ultimately, however, will be that women workers receiving equal pay for equal work, will be able to protect themselves with personal savings against the time when the additional ability of motherhood may arise.

As another example, our Labor Code of August 27, 1931, in Article 77, prohibits all women, and children, over 12 and under 16 years of age from engaging in night work in dangerous or unhealthy industries. Why should men be permitted to work in dangerous or unhealthy trades at night? Are they not the fathers of the race the same as we are the mothers? Are all men strong and immune? We know they are not. A proper law would protect all persons from danger to life and happiness.

I have informed the Mexican representative that the most scientific opinion in the world is that labor laws must be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker. Then and then only can merit enter in. Then and then only can women as free persons select their jobs according to their capacities.

I have written also to the women's organizations of Mexico to go to the Secretary of Labor at once, urging him to instruct the Mexican delegates to the Labor Conference to insist on equality for men and women workers, and to stand for laws which protect both men and women alike.

Massachusetts Visits Rhode Island

AT the invitation of the Textile Council of Rhode Island, members of the Massachusetts Branch of the National Woman's Party went to Pawtucket on Sunday afternoon, March 6, to get acquainted with the women there who are taking their stand for industrial equality.

The meeting held in the recreation rooms of the Lorain Manufacturing Company was arranged by the chairman and secretary of the Textile Council, Mrs. Marion Masse and Kathleen O'Connell. About forty members of the Textile Council were there, representing mills in Woonsocket, Pawtucket, Central Falls, Lonsdale, and Providence. Those attending from Boston were Mrs. Genevieve Fuller, Mrs. Miriam Loomis, Marguerite Smith, Marjorie Gillis, and Alma Lutz.

Josephine Casey opened the meeting with one of her interesting, stirring, informal talks on the work she is doing for women's economic equality. She then introduced Alma Lutz who thanked the Textile Council for their hospitality and congratulated them on the splendid report of the Rhode Island Commission, which she felt was due entirely to their good work and that of Josephine Casey.

Mrs. Fuller, an ardent Feminist who has been an active member of the Woman's Party since the days of the Suffrage campaign, then expressed her pleasure at being there.

Marjorie Gillis, legislative chairman of the Massachusetts Branch, told of the bills discriminating against women which were before the Massachusetts Legislature this year.

Marguerite Smith, treasurer of the Massachusetts Branch and member of the National Council, said she was very glad they had all become members of the National Woman's Party for she felt that we had very worth-while work to do together.

Mrs. Miriam Loomis, who in the past had worked with Florence Kelley and the Consumer's League, added a word of praise for Josephine Casey, saying that she had been familiar for years with her splendid work for women.

Miss Casey then called upon two of her old friends in the labor movement from Fall River to saw a few words. Both are skilled weavers but because of Massachusetts' laws regulating women's work, they are unable to get work in the mills and are forced to earn their living at much harder work. One of them said that as she had always been told that night work was unhealthy for women, she would like to hear what women who worked at night thought about it.

Instantly several women were on their feet to tell their stories. When they had finished others were eager to add their experiences and their reasons for preferring night work. All of them agreed that night work had not harmed them in the least. Married women who had to earn to help support their children, preferred the shift from 3 P. M. to 11 P. M. because it made it much easier for them to look after their families. All said they were thankful to get any work now, night or day. "If single women think night work for women might well be prohibited," said one mill worker, "I tell them that if they were married, and had children, and their husbands were sick or out of work, they'd soon feel differently."

But the single girls there agreed that they wanted to be free to work at night if they chose to. One very pretty, capable girl said, "My mother prefers to have me work from three to eleven. Then I get home and go to bed. If I worked on the day shift, I'd be out late at night at parties and dances, getting in much later than eleven. I'd never get as much sleep as I do now."

Another girl, in answer to the question, "Does night work impair your health," replied with this pertinent query, "On a dark day when the electric lights are turned on and it is to all appearances night, do you become ill?"

One of the weavers from Fall River, who is an artist in her line, told of the humiliation of having to give up her job because of Massachusetts labor laws to a man who could not do it as well as she and yet received a higher wage.

After an animated friendly discussion of the reasons why they objected to hour regulations which did not apply to men also, coffee and cake were served.

The Massachusetts members returned to Boston, inspired by the spirit of Rhode Island.

Progress in India

By Alice Stone Blackwell

WHATEVER our opinion may be of the Nationalist movement in India, we should all rejoice in the emancipation it is bringing to women.

For centuries the Hindu priesthood has been inculcating the subjection of women in an extreme form, and the seclusion of those of the higher castes. Gandhi advocates Equal Rights and equal freedom for women. "You will not be her master, but her true friend," he said to the bridegroom, in an address at his son's wedding.

J. C. Winslow and Verrier Elwin are Christian missionaries. For years they have lived among the poorest of the people in India, using their dress and food, and sharing their hardships. They have lately published a little book, "Gandhi: The Dawn of Indian Freedom," with a foreword by the Archbishop of York. They pay high tribute to Gandhi's saintly character, and to the ennobling effect that the non-violent struggle for self-government is having upon the Indians. Incidentally, they give many curious facts showing how women are casting off their old shackles:

"In Meerut, in order to walk in a procession as a protest against Gandhi's arrest, 5,000 women came out of purdah (seclusion), and never returned to it. . . . At Patna, a great procession of women, young and old, of every caste, went through the city, many of them never having appeared in public in their lives. . . A huge procession of women walked quietly through the streets of Borsad to receive without fear or retaliation an assault of beating and abuse from the police. Their leader covered with her blood-stained garments, walked bravely on, repeating the holy name of God, to receive still further blows."

Thousands of women have exposed themselves to beatings with the lathis (heavy bludgeons) of the police for picketing the liquor shops, or taking part in peaceful patriotic demonstrations, or going through the country as missionaries preaching the use of homespun. (By making it a patriotic fashion to wear homespun, and setting the people to spinning the yarn, which always finds a ready sale, Gandhi has lifted thousands of half-starved Indian families out of the lowest depths of poverty.)

A young man who had sacrificed his life in a non-violent patriotic demonstration in Bombay became a national hero:

"As the great procession that accompanied his body to the burning place passed through the crowded streets, people saw with astonishment that Hindu women (who never attend funerals) were carrying the bier along with the men. And although no Hindu woman may light the pyre even of her father or brother, it was a Brahmin woman of a most exclusive family that set fire to the pyre of this Kamati boy."

Members of the lowest caste have been called "untouchables," and treated like lepers. Gandhi teaches that they should be treated like brothers. At Munshiganj,

the "untouchables" were seeking admission to the Kali Temple, which was denied them by the priests. They had beset the temple in a peaceful siege for nine months. Finally some of them went on a hunger strike:

"In order to save their lives, 200 high-caste women armed themselves with saws, axes and hammers, stormed the temple, broke down the barriers that protected it, and threw it open to their 'untouchable' brothers."

Most of the women in the world live in India and China. We used to remind the anti-suffragists of this when they said that most women did not want to vote. It is a joy to see the idea of emancipation spreading among so large a group.

Labor Laws for Women on the Wane

Defeat of Restrictive Labor Bills for Women in 1931 Legislatures; 48-Hour, 44-Hour, 36-Hour 8-Hour Day

Compiled by Jane Norman Smith

THIS table deals exclusively with measures introduced in the various State Legislatures in 1931 calling for a 48-hour, 44-hour, or 36-hour-week law in specified occupations for women, but not for their men competitors. *Such bills were campaigned for by labor and welfare groups in 13 States, but all of them were defeated.* In view of the widely announced and far-flung campaign of the American Federation of Labor in 1931 for 48-hour week laws for women (but not for men), this table is of interest. The Woman's Party is not opposed to an eight-hour law, provided it applies to men as well as women. Restrictive labor legislation applying to women, but not to men, handicaps women's economic advancement.

State	Kind of Legislation	Supported by	Opposed by
California	To prohibit employment of married women In State and City work, or in any school district. To extend provisions of 8-hour law to beauty parlors, women in executive positions, etc.	Labor Groups.	Business Women's Legislative Council. California Federation Business and Professional Women. National Woman's Party. (A member of the Legislature states he received 25,000 letters in opposition.)
Connecticut	48-hour week in manufacturing and mechanical establishments.	American Federation of Labor. Consumers' League. League of Women Voters.	Various organizations of women.
Florida	48-hour week.	Labor Groups. League of Women Voters.	Business and Professional Women.
Illinois	48-hour week.	Women's Trade Union League made aggressive campaign. League of Women Voters. Other Women's Clubs.	Illinois Federation Business and Professional Women.
Indiana	36-hour week; 6-hour day in manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile, establishment, laundry, hotel, public lodging house, apartment house, hospital, place of amusement, restaurant, office, transportation, etc.		
Maine	48-hour week.	State Federation of Labor.	Individual club women headed by Gail Laughlin, Vice-Chairman National Woman's Party.
Minnesota	48-hour week.	League of Women Voters. State Federation of Labor. Industrial Commission.	Zonta Club of St. Paul. Railway Business Women's Organization. Telegraph Women of Minnesota. Women's Welfare League. All important Business and Professional Women's Clubs in State, except Minneapolis Club.
Missouri	8-hour day in manufacturing, mechanical, mercantile establishment, factory, workshop, bakery, restaurant, place of amusement, public utility (bill includes stenographers and clerks).	Labor Groups.	
New Hampshire	48-hour week; manual and mechanical labor in manufacturing.	State Federation of Labor.	
New Jersey	48-hour week.	Consumers' League. League of Women Voters. Tuberculosis League. State Federation Women's Clubs. Women's Trade Union League. State Federation of Labor.	National Woman's Party, New Jersey Branch. Groups of Business Women. National Civic Federation, New Jersey Branch.
New Mexico	8-hour day for women in offices, etc.	Labor Organizations. Bureau of Public Health.	Business Women.
Pennsylvania	44-hour week.	State Labor Organizations. Consumers' League. Women's Trade Union League. League of Women Voters.	National Woman's Party, Pennsylvania Branch, and other groups of women. (Chairman Judiciary Committee is reported to have received over 1,000 letters from women in industry in opposition.)
Wisconsin	44-hour week.	Women's Trade Union League. State Federation of Labor.	National Woman's Party, Wisconsin Branch. County Federation Women's Clubs and other groups. Mrs. Charbonneau, Wisconsin, only Assemblywoman.

The position of the National Woman's Party is:
That women shall no longer be barred from any occupation, but every occupation open to men shall be open to women, and restrictions upon the hours, conditions, and remuneration of labor shall apply alike to both sexes.

Feminist Notes

Indian Women Uphold Sarda Act

THE Women's Indian Conference has gone strongly on record in support of the Sarda Act—the law that raises the marriageable age of Indian girls to fourteen years. In an appeal to members of the Government the conference deplores the efforts being made to rescind the act and begs the Legislative Assembly to refuse to pass any bills to change or repeal the act. The appeal says, in part: "Marriage is a transaction between grown-up people and that it should be thrust upon an infant girl child is both unnatural and revolting to the minds of thinking people, therefore, contrary to the law of God."

Offence in the Law

THE *Vote* calls attention to the case of Laura Mildred Worth, British by birth, but a "woman without a country," by virtue of her marriage with an American citizen residing in Glasgow, Scotland. Mrs. Worth cannot become an American citizen without going through certain formalities, but by British law her marriage makes her an alien in her own country and subject to a fine for non-registration. The *Vote* comments: "Our firm view is that the offence is in the law, which automatically deprives a woman on her marriage with a foreigner of her British nationality. . . . . Nationality is a fundamental right of every citizen. . . . A man does not lose his nationality when he marries a foreigner. Why should a woman when she marries a foreigner? The law in this country must be altered so as to give a British woman the same right as a British man to retain or change her nationality."

Married Teachers in France

IN France married teachers are not only retained at their posts, but they are also allowed generous leave of absence during pregnancy and confinement.

Not So Awfully Foolish

'Twas a foolish young woman who said:
"If in Leap Year I marry dear Fred,
As the offer was mine,
Will they make him resign,
And keep me at the office instead?"
—*Opportunity.*

Women at Disarmament Conference

FOUR women are serving as members of national delegations to the Disarmament Conference, now in session at Geneva, Switzerland, as follows:

Mrs. Corbert Ashby, president of the International Alliance of Women for Suffrage and Equal Citizenship, a member of the delegation from Great Britain.

Dr. Mary E. Woolley, president of Mt. Holyoke College, a member of the delegation from the United States of America.

Miss Winnifred Kydd, president of the National Council of Women of Canada, a member of the delegation from Canada.

Mme. Anna Szelagowska, member of the General Council and head of the Foreign Affairs Section of the Polish Women's Society, and a member of the Peace Committee of the Alliance, a member of the delegation from Poland.

A Feminist City

AURORA, ILLINOIS, celebrated leap year by turning Feminist for twenty-four hours. The entire administration of the city was turned over to women for that length of time. Mildred Pratt, business woman, became acting mayor. One woman ran the fire department, another took over the duties of chief of police. Women ran the stores, directed the traffic and presided in the police court. More than that, women were actually entrusted with important positions in the banks and won praise for their exceptional acuity in dealing with applicants for loans. All this is but a gesture, to be sure, but gestures and even jests are not necessarily lacking in significance.

News from the Field

Ruby Black in New Rôle

RUBY BLACK, editor, author, wife and mother, appeared in a new rôle on Monday evening in the skits following the Women's National Press Club's annual dinner on Monday evening, March 14.

As a bored and competent city editor, as a stylishly gowned member of the Martha Washington Bicentennial Commission at a Bicentennial tea, and as the vice-president presiding over the Senate of the future, she drew the repeated applause of a mirth-shaken audience.

Throughout the evening's entertainment ran a strong Feminist current. There was edge to the jesting when a group of women "Hunger Marchers" appeared at the White House portals and demanded jobs for women; while a Senate meeting in 2032 showed a Senate of women debating a plan to safeguard the home by prohibiting salaries for married men. An amusing interlude was the distribution to the dinner guests of "The Sex Appeal," headlining the story of the hold-up of the stunt party by a gang of desperadoes—Republicans and Democrats trying to make off with the women's vote for next November.

A song to Alice Paul was enthusiastically rendered by a charming group of chorines.

Students Adopt Constitution

THE newly formed Students' Council of Goucher College held their first business meeting at the Alumnæ Lodge on the college grounds on Wednesday evening, March 16. A thirty-five-cent supper served by the Maryland Branch preceded the meeting which was held in the living room of the lodge, and presided over by Evelyn Byrd Howell, temporary chairman.

After the adoption of a constitution and by-laws the Council immediately elected permanent officers and plunged at once into plans for active work. These plans included personal visits by the students to the six State Senators and thirty-six delegates from Baltimore City to the General Assembly to urge the passage of the Jury Service bill for women which will come up before that august body when it convenes the first of January, 1933, and the laying before the School Board of Baltimore City the justice of opening the courses of the Polytechnic Institute to girl students as well as boys.

Dr. Mary Wilhelmine Williams of Goucher who was the guest of honor was then introduced and talked informally and most interestingly about the woman movement giving side lights on and personal intimate touches to the lives of Susan B. Anthony, the Reverend Antoinette Brown, Ernestine Rose and the Reverend Olympia Brown all of which was much enjoyed by those present.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Evelyn Byrd Howell; vice-chairman, Caroline Becker; recording secretary, Ellen Berry Alpigini; corresponding secretary, Margaret Henry; treasurer, Dora Musson; membership chairman, Elizabeth C. McGing; program chairman, Mary Hayleck.

Virginia Defeats Hours Bill

FOLLOWING the presentation of proof that passage of the Montague-Hillard Eight-Hour Law for women in industry would seriously handicap, if not destroy, the industries of the State of Virginia, and that the women do not want the law, the Senate Committee on General Laws killed the measure by a vote of 9 to 1. Senator Major Hillard of Portsmouth, co-patron of the bill, was the only committeeman to cast an affirmative vote.

The bill just killed provided an 8-hour day for a 6-day week, a 9½-hour day for a 5-day week, and a 9-hour day for a 5½-day week.

Representatives of various Virginia industries told the commitee that passage of the proposed bill would not only cripple industry, but would throw employes out of work instead of providing more employment, as proponents claimed. A number of manufacturers pointed out that some, if not all, of their women employes are on piece work; and that to curtail their working time would mean curtailment of their wages. They said these employes do not want their hours reduced.

New Leaflet Ready

A NEW leaflet, *Labor Legislation for Women on the Wane,* reprinted from an article appearing in this issue, is now ready and should be very useful in legislative work. It is a schedule of labor legislation for women, proposed and defeated in 1931. It was compiled by Jane Norman Smith. Prices are as follows: 10 copies, 25 cents; 50 copies $1; 100 copies, $2. Send orders to Literature Chairman, National Woman's Party, 144 B Street N. E., Washington, D. C.

Establishes Woman's Exchange

ELENA DE LA PENA, Cuban Feminist, has just reported to the Inter-American Commission of Women that she has opened the Intercambio Femenino Internacional (Woman's International Exchange) in the Hotel Plaza, Havana, Cuba.

"Within the first six weeks," writes this enterprising worker for women, "Cuban women have brought to our exchange $5,000 worth of articles made by them at home. Now it is up to us to look for buyers." American women going to Havana are cordially invited to visit the new exchange.

When the Committee on International Action of the National Woman's Party went to the sixth Pan-American Conference in 1928 to present the Equal Rights Treaty to that body of plenipotentiaries, Elena de la Peña gathered hundreds of signatures to a petition that this treaty be agreed to from among the populace of Cuba. She installed herself in public places and worked indefatigably.

Amendment Topic at Tea

THE Equal Rights Amendment was the real protagonist of the tea which was held at Alva Belmont House, 144 B Street N. E., headquarters of the National Woman's Party, on Sunday afternoon, March 20, from four to six. A hearing on the proposed amendment was held before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives on Wednesday morning, March 23, at ten o'clock. A full report of the hearing will appear in next week's issue of EQUAL RIGHTS.

On Sunday afternoon Burnita Shelton Matthews of Mississippi and Laura Berrien of Georgia discussed the amendment and showed how the present period of industrial depression has greatly intensified the demand for its immediate passage. Elsie Hill, State chairman of the Woman's Party for Connecticut, presided. Miss Hill was first chairman of the Woman's Party when it reorganized, after obtaining suffrage, to work for Equal Rights. During the suffrage campaign she was three times imprisoned—in Boston, New York, and Washington.

Fiji Island Feminists

FEMINIST messages from exotic places have been reaching Alva Belmont House from Florence Bayard Hilles, national vice-chairman of the Woman's Party and State chairman for Delaware. The latest comes from the Fiji Islands, and is accompanied by a fine Feminist photograph of the sturdy Fiji women managing the heavy fishing nets with much grace and agility. Mrs. Hilles is expected home in April.

Ruth Miller Marries

RUTH MILLER of Ohio, who has held a secretarial position at Alva Belmont House for the past two years, is another proof of the perfect compatibility of marriage and a profession. Miss Miller was married on Saturday, March 5, to James S. Sweet, and was back at her desk on Monday morning. Mr. Sweet, a Russian by birth, has become a United States citizen and holds a position in the Bureau of Interstate Commerce.

"Nobody expects my husband to give up his work because he has married," said Miss Miller. "Why should anyone be surprised that I am interested enough in my work to want to keep on with it too?"

Elsie Hill Addresses Students

ELSIE HILL spoke on the Woman Movement to the Freshman class in Problems of Citizenship at the University of Maryland, College Park, Wednesday, March 16. The text-book used in this course is the work of Professor Carrothers and his wife, Ruth Allison-Hudnut.

Committees Announced

THE annual meeting of the Virginia Branch of the National Woman's Party will be held in May, the date to be announced later. Committees appointed to arrange for the meeting are: Place and speakers—Mrs. Emma DeWitt, chairman; Mrs. Marine Reed, vice-chairman; Mrs. George Pridgen, assistant vice-chairman; Mrs. Buley, Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. E. M. Graff and Mrs. Dunston. Decorations—Mrs. Mary Danner, chairman; Mrs. Sam Moody, vice-chairman; Mrs. W. R. Robins, Mrs. Joe Davis, Mrs. Ruth Davis. Tickets—Mrs. W. Duson, chairman; Mrs. Charles Murray, vice-chairman; Mrs. Charles Meeks, Mrs. Homer Wood. Reception Committee—Dr. Helen Love Bossieux, chairman; Mrs. William Atkins, assistant chairman; Mrs. Frank Read, Mrs. Frank Jobson, Mrs. Charles Bolton. Nominating—Miss Julia Jennings, assistant chairman; Roy K. Flanagan, Mrs. George Pridgen, Mrs. Fred Gans, Mrs. Benjamin Lovenstein, and Mrs. Eva Adams.

Business Women Endorse Equality

AS a result of the capable championship of Mary C. Johnston, president; Dorothy Eby, legislative chairman, and Emma E. Dillon, prominent Trenton lawyer, the Trenton Business and Professional Women's Club of New Jersey has just gone on record for Equal Rights with the following resolution:

WHEREAS the bills known as Senate Bill No. 136, Assembly Bill No. 213, and Senate Bill No. 33, limiting the hours of labor of women in certain occupations, discriminate against women; and

WHEREAS no laws limiting the rights of men employed in similar occupations have been contemplated or enacted; and

WHEREAS employed women have always heretofore opposed such discriminatory legislation and have never asked nor demanded the so-called "protection" afforded by this legislation; and

WHEREAS the hours of employment to be eliminated by the proposed legislation are those best suited to the home conditions of many women who would be directly affected by these bills; and

WHEREAS these bills, if enacted into law, will cause many women who are the sole support of families to lose their employment; and

WHEREAS many of the arguments of the proponents of the said legislation tend to cast reflections upon the moral stamina of employed women; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Trenton Business and Professional Women's Club continue its opposition to any legislation discriminating against the rights of women to work where and when they please in accordance with the rights and privileges guaranteed to all citizens regardless of sex; and

That we request the members of the Senate of New Jersey and of the House of Assembly of New Jersey to prevent the enactment of these particular bills and any similar legislation which may be introduced.

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